

“THE FALL OF SEBASTOPOL” : 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2005
by Dr. Douglas Austin 03 [TWC 23(3) p26 2005]

Hugh Small's lecture on this topic was given to a full audience of some 50 listeners, who were treated to a very wide-ranging and thought-provoking discussion of the Crimean War, adorned with some fine topographic and perspective maps. He drew attention to the value of Andrew Lambert's book "*The Crimean War, British Grand Strategy 1853-56*" and agreed with that author's conclusion that it was the British naval strategy that drove the decision to attack Sebastopol. Furthermore, he used important and hitherto unused items, from the Panmure Papers in the National Archives of Scotland, strongly to support some startling conclusions about Raglan -specifically his apparent collusion with Pellissier in undermining Canrobert's position early in 1855. Far from the diplomatic and hardworking bumbler of common view, Raglan emerged as highly politicised and, indeed, "duplicitous" in some of his dealings. More information is available in Hugh's publication "*The 1855 Allied Campaign Plan*" in the current issue of the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* (Vol.83, No.335, pp. 228- 242, 2005). This was a most successful presentation, warmly appreciated by all.